

SR 904 LT. COL. MICHAEL P. ANDERSON MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

BRIEFING PAPER

Prepared for the
February 2003 Transportation Commission Meeting

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Approved by: John Conrad, Assistant Secretary, Engineering & Regional Operations

PURPOSE:

To name SR 904 beginning at MP 00 (Interstate 90 MP 257 – Tyler Interchange) and ending at MP 17 (Interstate 90 MP 271 – Four Lakes Interchange) the Lt. Col. Michael P. Anderson Memorial Highway in honor of Space Shuttle Columbia's payload commander.

ACTION/OUTCOME:

Designate SR 904 beginning at MP 00 (Interstate 90 MP 257 – Tyler Interchange) and ending at MP 17 (Interstate 90 MP 271 – Four Lakes Interchange) as the Lt. Col. Michael P. Anderson Memorial Highway.

BACKGROUND:

On February 1, 2003, the Space Shuttle Columbia, along with its crew, was lost during re-entry into earth's atmosphere. Among those whose lives were lost was Michael Anderson, a 1977 graduate of Cheney High School.

DISCUSSION:

Michael Anderson, whose father spent part of his Air Force career at Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane, graduated in 1977 from Cheney High School. He joined the Air Force and received his commission after graduating from the University of Washington in 1981 with a bachelor of science degree in physics/astronomy. During his distinguished service as a pilot, he earned a master's degree in physics from Creighton University.

He said once that he couldn't remember a time he didn't want to be an astronaut. NASA selected Anderson to become an astronaut in 1994, and he took his first flight into space aboard the shuttle Endeavor in 1998. On the Space Shuttle Columbia, he was payload commander and in charge of science experiments.

He considered Spokane his home. Michael Anderson was a powerful role model. He was an inspiration to our youth, showing them they could achieve their dreams through hard work and dedication. He visited local schools encouraging youngsters' interest in science and technology studies.

There is widespread community support, including the West Plains Chamber of Commerce and the Spokane Regional Chamber of Commerce to name SR 904 in honor of Lt. Col. Michael P. Anderson.

RECOMMENDATION:

Name SR 904 beginning at MP 00 (Interstate 90 MP 257 – Tyler Interchange) and ending at MP 17 (Interstate 90 MP 271 – Four Lakes Interchange) the Lt. Col. Michael P. Anderson Memorial Highway.

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